

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SAM-01 IO-10 OMB-01 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /078 W

----- 117476

O R 291616Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3890

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 1023

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI AO

SUBJECT: ROUNDUP AT 1700 JULY 29; LUANDA

1. MPLA IS REPORTED TO HAVE TAKEN DUQUE DE BRAGANCA, NORTHWEST OF MALANGE, AND PORTUGALIA, UP ON THE ZAIRIAN BORDER. MALANGE IS STILL IN FNLA HANDS, BUT MPLA IS SAID TO BE SURROUNDING THE CITY. AT THE MOMENT, MPLA CONTROLS THE ENTIRE HIGHWAY BETWEEN LUANDA AND MALANGE,

2. SOME INDICATORS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED THAT MPLA WILL SOON ATTEMPT A COUNTER THRUST AGAINST THE FNLA IN CAXITO.

3. THE OFFICIAL CASUALTY FIGURE FOR THE VILA ALICE SHOOTOUT IS 15 MPLA DEAD, 4 COMMANDOS INJURED. THE PORTUGUESE CLAIM OFF THE RECORD THAT THE COMMANDOS INVOLVED IN THE SECOND INCIDENT WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND THAT
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ALL COMMANDOS ARE TEMPORARILY CONFINED TO THEIR BARRACKS.

4. THE FIREMEN AT THE SHELL TANK APPEAR TO BE BRINGING THE FIRE UNDER CONTROL. BILLOWING BLACK SMOKE HAS STOPPED AND SOME WHITE SMOKE IS EVIDENT.

5. ACCORDING TO A PORTUGUESE ARMY SOURCE ROBERTO IS BACK IN KINSHASA. THE SAME SOURCE CLAIMS LISBON HAS BEEN GIVEN AN "OPTION PAPER" WITH ALTERNATIVES FOR PORTUGUESE ACTION HERE.

6. IN A TOUR OF THE TOWNS ALONG THE HIGHWAY BETWEEN SALAZAR AND LUANDA MPLA PRESIDENT AGOSTINHO NETO VISITED HIS HOME TOWN NEAR CATETE AND UPON ARRIVING BACK IN THE CAPITAL HE SAID THAT MPLA IS GOING TO TAKE OVER THE COUNTRY BECAUSE THE PORTUGUESE HAVE NOT RESPECTED THE TERMS OF THE ALVOR AGREEMENT. HE ADDED THAT THERE IS GOING TO BE MORE FIGHTING, BUT THAT FROM HERE ON IN IT WILL NOT BE THE PORTUGUESE WHO WILL TAKE THE INITIATIVE, BUT THE MPLA. IT IS RIDICULOUS, HE SAID, TO THINK THAT 500,000 PORTUGUESE WILL BE ABLE TO CONSERVE THEIR PRIVILEGES FOR ANOTHER SIX MONTHS. HE DWELT AT LENGTH ON THE INCIDENT IN VILA ALICE IN WHICH THE MPLA SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND CALLED FOR THE IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER. "WE ARE CAPABLE OF DIRECTING OUR OWN DESTINY," HE SAID. KILLORAN

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